

Maximize the Return on Taxpayer Investment in USDA Through Enhanced Stewardship Activities of Resources and Focused Program Evaluation

ACHIEVEMENTS: USDA's Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) established an enterprise management initiative, to complement their Capital Planning and Investment Control process. The goal of this initiative is to develop a strategic sourcing program to support enterprise contracting, customer marketing, and vendor management, and to achieve the maximum return on taxpayer investment for information technology (IT) investments.

During FY 2015, USDA agencies and offices engaged in a number of efforts to reduce the Department's National space footprint. These efforts included a number of co-location activities intended to reduce the Department's overall footprint by sharing space amongst USDA organizations. One example of this co-location focus can be found in the Albuquerque, New Mexico area where 5 USDA agencies have locations in close proximity. Through a co-location of those facilities, the Department stands to reduce its overall footprint and associated costs. The results of these efforts and other improvements made by the Department have allowed USDA to reduce its leased space footprint by nearly 1 million square feet in FY 2015.

CHALLENGES: USDA continues to work on improving interagency communication, coordination, and program integration to identify additional shared services opportunities to improve efficiencies and to enhance internal control systems to improve both our improper payment rates and IT security infrastructure.